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Population Characteristics

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SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN THE UNITED STATES: 1971

(Advance data, October 1971 survey)

Among the 108.7 million persons 3 to 34 years old in the civilian noninstitutional population in October 1971, there were approximately 1.1 million enrolled in nursery schools, 3.3 million in kindergartens, 33.5 million in elementary schools, 15.2 million in high schools, and 8.1 million in college.

A considerable proportion of persons both above and below the compulsory school attendance ages were enrolled in school in October 1971. Among the 3- and 4-year old children, 21 percent were enrolled in school and among persons who were 18 and 19 years old, 49 percent were enrolled in school. Almost all children of the compulsory attendance ages, 7 to 15 years old, were attending school. These results are based on the Current Population Survey conducted in October 1971 by the Bureau of the Census.

Both white and Negro young adults, 20 to 24 years old, were less likely to be high school dropouts than were those 30 to 34 years old who would have left school 10 years earlier. Among whites who were 20 to 24 years old, 16 percent were high school dropouts (that is, not enrolled in school and not a high school graduate). But among whites who were 30 to 34 years old, 23 percent were high school dropouts. Among Negroes, 31 percent of the 20- to 24-year olds were high school dropouts as compared with 41 percent of the 30- to 34-year olds.

There was a 23 percent decrease between 1965 and 1971 in the number of students who were enrolled in private elementary schools and high schools. In October 1971, there were 4.3 million students enrolled in private kindergartens and elementary schools as compared with 5.5 million in October 1965. And there were 1.1 million

students enrolled in private high schools in 1971 as compared with 1.5 million in 1965. In the public elementary and high schools, however, there were more students enrolled in 1971 than in 1965. Students enrolled in private schools made up a smaller proportion of the total enrollment in 1971 than in 1965. In 1971, 12 percent of the students enrolled in kindergartens and elementary schools were enrolled in private schools as compared with 15 percent in 1965. And among high school students, 7 percent were enrolled in private schools in 1971 as compared with 11 percent in 1965.

Data on control of school by metropolitan residence have been available only since 1967. These data show that between 1967 and 1971 the number of students enrolled in private high schools in the central cities of metropolitan areas decreased by 20 percent while the number of students enrolled in public high schools in these areas increased by 10 percent. Outside the central cities of metropolitan areas there was an increase in the number enrolled in public high schools of 16 percent. (There was some evidence that the percent increase in the number enrolled in public high schools outside the central cities of metropolitan areas was greater than the increase in the central cities.)

Enrollment statistics shown in this report refer to the civilian noninstitutional population reported as enrolled in regular public and private schools and colleges by the middle of October, when the Current Population Survey was conducted. The statistics include both full-time and part-time students and persons who were working in addition to attending school. Children enrolled in "Head Start" programs or similar programs sponsored by local agencies to provide preschool education

to young children are counted as enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten as appropriate. These figures may differ from figures on school enrollment reported by other sources, largely because (1) the Bureau of the Census collects data by household interviews, whereas information from other sources is generally based on reports from school systems and institutions of higher learning; and (2) there are often differences in definitions and time references. Also, enrollment as of October, will usually be lower than enrollment for the whole school year because the

latter provides a cumulative count of persons who enter school at different times throughout the year.

Since the figures presented in this report are based on sample data, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census. The sampling variation may be relatively large where the numbers shown are small. A more complete statement on the variability due to sampling, as well as more detailed information about the fall enrollment figures, will be issued in a later report in this series.

Table 1. ENROLLMENT STATUS OF THE POPULATION 3 TO 34 YEARS OLD, BY AGE, RACE, AND SELECTED EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS: OCTOBER 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age and race	Popu- lation	Enrolled in school				Not in enrolled in school					
		Total		Below college level	In college ¹	Total		High school graduate		Not high school graduate	
		Number	Percent of popu- lation			Number	Percent of popu- lation	Number	Percent of popu- lation		
ALL RACES											
Total, 3 to 34 years..	108,716	61,106	56.2	53,020	8,087	47,610	43.8	30,563	28.1	17,047	15.7
3 and 4 years.....	6,986	1,478	21.2	1,478	-	5,508	78.8	-	-	5,508	78.8
5 and 6 years.....	7,443	6,818	91.6	6,818	-	625	8.4	-	-	625	8.4
7 to 9 years.....	12,303	12,193	99.1	12,193	-	109	0.9	-	-	109	0.9
10 to 13 years.....	16,772	16,630	99.2	16,630	-	142	0.8	-	-	142	0.8
14 and 15 years.....	8,158	8,044	98.6	8,039	5	114	1.4	2	-	112	1.4
16 and 17 years.....	7,869	7,100	90.2	6,821	279	769	9.8	153	1.9	616	7.8
18 and 19 years.....	7,231	3,557	49.2	831	2,726	3,674	50.8	2,567	35.5	1,108	15.3
20 and 21 years.....	6,408	2,066	32.2	69	1,997	4,342	67.8	3,256	50.8	1,086	17.0
22 to 24 years.....	10,029	1,540	15.4	53	1,487	8,489	84.6	6,658	66.4	1,831	18.3
25 to 29 years.....	13,983	1,118	8.0	51	1,067	12,865	92.0	9,873	70.6	2,992	21.4
30 to 34 years.....	11,535	564	4.9	37	527	10,971	95.1	8,054	69.8	2,918	25.3
WHITE											
Total, 3 to 34 years..	93,358	52,081	55.8	44,808	7,273	41,277	44.2	27,435	29.4	13,842	14.8
3 and 4 years.....	5,794	1,209	20.9	1,209	-	4,584	79.1	-	-	4,584	79.1
5 and 6 years.....	6,185	5,683	91.9	5,683	-	502	8.1	-	-	502	8.1
7 to 9 years.....	10,332	10,243	99.1	10,243	-	89	0.9	-	-	89	0.9
10 to 13 years.....	14,270	14,156	99.2	14,156	-	114	0.8	-	-	114	0.8
14 and 15 years.....	6,996	6,903	98.7	6,898	5	93	1.3	2	-	90	1.3
16 and 17 years.....	6,765	6,120	90.5	5,874	246	645	9.5	138	2.0	507	7.5
18 and 19 years.....	6,243	3,081	49.4	596	2,485	3,162	50.6	2,287	36.6	875	14.0
20 and 21 years.....	5,526	1,807	32.7	50	1,758	3,719	67.3	2,888	52.3	831	15.0
22 to 24 years.....	8,764	1,390	15.9	38	1,351	7,374	84.1	5,924	67.6	1,450	16.5
25 to 29 years.....	12,313	1,002	8.1	37	965	11,311	91.9	8,899	72.3	2,413	19.6
30 to 34 years.....	10,171	487	4.8	24	463	9,684	95.2	7,297	71.7	2,388	23.5
NEGRO											
Total, 3 to 34 years..	13,960	8,178	58.6	7,499	680	5,782	41.4	2,793	20.0	2,989	21.4
3 and 4 years.....	1,076	231	21.5	231	-	845	78.5	-	-	845	75.8
5 and 6 years.....	1,145	1,028	89.8	1,028	-	117	10.2	-	-	117	10.2
7 to 9 years.....	1,793	1,775	99.0	1,775	-	18	1.0	-	-	18	1.0
10 to 13 years.....	2,285	2,257	98.8	2,257	-	28	1.2	-	-	28	1.2
14 and 15 years.....	1,078	1,060	98.4	1,060	-	18	1.6	-	-	18	1.6
16 and 17 years.....	1,006	897	89.2	868	29	109	10.8	15	1.5	94	9.3
18 and 19 years.....	908	423	46.6	220	204	485	53.4	266	29.3	219	24.1
20 and 21 years.....	803	219	27.3	20	199	584	72.7	344	42.9	240	29.8
22 to 24 years.....	1,155	131	11.4	13	119	1,023	88.6	657	56.9	366	31.7
25 to 29 years.....	1,497	93	6.2	14	79	1,404	93.8	853	57.0	552	36.9
30 to 34 years.....	1,215	63	5.2	13	50	1,152	94.8	659	54.2	493	40.6

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

¹Of the 8,087,000 persons enrolled in college, 1,830,000 were enrolled in 2-year colleges and 6,257,000 in 4-year colleges.